

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00 FEAE-00 FPC-01 H-02 INR-07

INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04 USIA-06

SAM-01 OES-03 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 PA-01 PRS-01

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P 091314Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY OSLO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1268

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY

INFO USMISSION OECD PARIS PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L OSLO 1180

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, NO

SUBJ: IEA: NORWAY'S ADHERENCE TO LONG-TERM COOPERATION PROGRAM

REF: STATE 054734 (NOTAL)

1. AMBASSADOR DISCUSSED NORWEGIAN ADHERENCE TO IEA LONG-TERM COOPERATION PROGRAM ON MARCH 8 WITH FOREIGN MINISTER FRYDENLUND AFTER E/C COUNSELOR HAD DISCUSSED IT WITH RAVNE, NORWAY'S COORDINATOR FOR FOREIGN ENERGY POLICY, EARLIER IN DAY. FRYDENLUND AND RAVNE SAID THAT DENIS, DAVIGNON'S ASSISTANT, ON BEHALF OF DAVIGNON, HAD CALLED IN NORWEGIANS IN BRUSSELS ABOUT TEN DAYS AGO. DENIS HAD ASKED WHETHER NORWAY WOULD BE READY TO ADHERE TO THE LONG-TERM PROGRAM AT MARCH 16 GOVENING BOARD MEETING AND WHETHER, IF NORWAY COULD NOT BE READY, IT WOULD PREFER TO HAVE THE ITEM ON ADHERENCE TAKEN OFF THE MARCH 16 AGENDA. FRYDENLUND SAID THAT HE HAD REPLIED TO DAVIGNON THAT NORWAY WAS VERY POSITIVE IN PRINCIPLE TO THE PROGRAM BUT THAT NORWAY STILL COULD NOT MEET THE MARCH 16 DEADLINE

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AND PREFERRED TO HAVE THE ITEM REMOVED FROM THE AGENDA.

FRYDENLUND SAID HE DID NOT KNOW WHETHER ITEM HAD ACTUALLY BEEN DELETED FROM AGENDA. IT IS, HOWEVER, OBVIOUS THAT AS A RESULT OF THE APPROACH BY DENIS FRYDENLUND BELIEVES PRESSURE TO ADHERE ON MARCH 16 IS OFF.

2. MAJOR DIFFICULTY FOR NORWEGIANS IS NON-DISCRIMINATORY ACCESS PROVISIONS OF CHAPTER V. WITH ACCEPTANCE OF LONG-TERM PROGRAM BY OTHER IEA MEMBERS, NORWAY'S PROBLEMS WITH CHAPTER III ARE NO LONGER SO SERIOUS, ALTHOUGH QUESTIONS OF EEC IMPLEMENTATION OF MSP STILL CAUSE CONCERN. IMPLICATIONS OF LONG-TERM PROGRAM ARE BEING STUDIED BY INTERESTED MINISTRIES WITH HARD LOOK AT COMPATABILITY OF CHAPTER V WITH NORWEGIAN OIL POLICY AND LEGISLATION. FRYDENLUND SAID IT WAS ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY FOR NORWEGIAN ADHERENCE TO ASSURE PARLIAMENT THAT NORWEGIAN OIL POLICY AND/OR RELATED LEGISLATION WOULD NOT BE AFFECTED OR BE MODIFIED. SOME SORT OF RESERVATION OR EXPLANATION OF THE NORWEGIAN INTERPRETATION OF CHAPTER V MIGHT ALSO BE NECESSARY AT THE TIME NORWAY ADHERES TO THE PROGRAM.

3. FRYDENLUND SAID HE STRONGLY FAVORED NORWEGIAN ADHERENCE TO PROGRAM AND THAT IT WAS NECESSARY TO MOVE CAREFULLY AND CAUTIOUSLY SO AS NOT TO CREAT UNNECESSARY PARLIAMENTARY PROBLEMS. HE DECLINED TO GIVE ANY TIME TABLE FOR NORWEGIAN ADHERENCE BEYOND SAYING THAT HE HOPED NORWAY COULD DO SO WITHIN THE NEXT FEW MONTHS. (RAVNE SAID AFTER MEETING WITH FRYDENLUND THAT HE HOPED NORWAY COULD ADHERE BY APRIL GOVERNING BOARD MEETING.)

4. COMMENT: EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT NORWEGIAN GOVERNMENT HAS TAKEN FIRM DECISION NOT TO ADHERE TO LONG-TERM PROGRAM AT MARCH 16 GOVERNING BOARD MEETING EVEN IF ITEM IS ON AGENDA. NORWAY'S DECISION IS BASED ON DOMESTIC POLITICAL GROUNDS, THE FACT THAT THEY HAVE NOT HAD TIME TO EXAMINE PROGRAM COMPLETELY, AND THEIR FEELING THAT APPROACH BY DENIS LETS THEM OFF THE HOOK. IF ITEM IS STILL ON MARCH 16 GOVERNING BOARD AGENDA EVEN UNDER "OTHER BUSINESS," THIS WILL BE HELPFUL IN PURSHING ALONG
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NORWEGIAN ADHERENCE AS FAST AS POSSIBLE AND IN KEEPING PRESSURE ON NORWEGIANS, THOUGH WE SHOULD BE UNDER NO ILLUSIONS THAT GON WILL ADHERE NEXT WEEK.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: THAT EMBASSY BE ADVISED ASAP OF STATUS OF ITEM ON NORWEGIAN ADHERENCE ON MARCH 16 GOVERNING BOARD AGENDA.
BYRNE

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Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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